

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes
Colonial Red Lion Inn/Jorgenson's Inn and Suites
Annual Joint Partnership Meeting/ Advisory Panel Meeting
May 1-2, 2014

Members in Attendance: Marilyn Davis, Theresa Baldry, Chris Bilant, Tia Davis, Doug Dellwo, Dan Laughlin, Dawn Piazza, Diana Tavary, Barbara Varnum, Marvin Williams, Tessie Rose Bailey, Chris Bilant, Lily Wahl, Dave Marzolf, Tia Davis

Excused Members: Marilyn Davis (Friday), Clarena Brockie, Laura Straus, Tia Davis (Friday), Carolyn Prill, Wendy Studt, (Tara Moore resigned from the Special Education Advisory Panel)

Non-Members in Attendance: Dick Trerise, Frank Podobnik, Steve York, Anne Rainey, Andree Larose, Annette Young, Mary Gallagher, Marlene Wallis

Thursday, May 1, 2014—Colonial Red Lion Inn

The Special Education Advisory Panel members attended the Annual CSPD Partnership Meeting held at the Colonial Red Lion Inn.

The purpose of the Partnership Meeting was for stakeholders in special education to gather to network, collaborate and discuss critical issues in special education services.

John Copenhaver, Facilitator, from the Center for Technical Assistance Excellence in Special Education presented ten national hot topics in Special Education.

- Reauthorization
- State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)
- State Core Standards
- Sequestration Cuts
- Results Driven Accountability (RDA)
- Fiscal Accountability
- ESEA Waivers
- School Climate, Safe Schools and Bullying
- Cradle to College/Career Movement
- Virtual Special Education

A follow-up from the 2013 CSPD Annual Meeting was presented on “Working Together to Increase Results Through a Cradle to College/Career Framework.”

The group revisited the Past to Understand the Present and Future. They viewed the film “The Great Fight for Disability Rights.”

“The New Future: An Introduction to Results Driven Accountability and the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)” was presented by Dick Trerise, OPI, and Norm Ames, Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center. The presentation included:

- 2004 Reauthorization of IDEA
- Results-Driven Accountability (RDA)
- Proposed SSIP Activities by Phase
- Latest Language from OSEP
 - Data Analysis
 - Infrastructure Analysis
 - State-Identified Measureable Result (SIMR)
 - Selection of Coherent Improvement Strategies
 - Theory of Action
- Develop a Theory of Action
- Ideas to Consider
- The State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP): the New Indicator B-17

The following session was “Montana Stakeholder Input to the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)—TARGETED AREA: School Completion .”

The participants went into small-group discussions to discuss:

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats

The Partnership Meeting concluded with: Final Thoughts, Reflections and Comments.

Friday, May 2, 2014—Jorgenson’s Inn and Suites

Vice-Chairperson Doug Dellwo called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

Following review of the Proposed Agenda, Theresa Baldry moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Dave Marzolf seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the minutes of the January 23-24, 2014, meeting. Tessie Rose Bailey moved to accept the minutes, Barbara Varnum seconded the motion and the motion passed. The minutes of the January 23-24, 2014, meeting were approved as written.

Call for Public Comments

Doug Dellwo, Vice-Chairperson, asked if there were any public comments. Following the call for public comments, it was determined there were no public comments at this time.

Division Report

Frank Podobnik informed the Panel that Erin Butts, School-Based Mental Health Specialist, has done a remarkable job setting up trainings around the state. She has involved the Juvenile Justice, staff from other state agencies, Crime Control, as well as other divisions within the Office of Public Instruction. Erin has been working on grant applications for Positive Behavior Intervention and Violence Reduction.

Frank Podobnik and Dick Trerise discussed the State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR) Preliminary Review.

The Preliminary Federal FY 2014 Federal appropriations are listed on the Special Education Web site.

The Division is in the process of hiring a new specialist who will be half-time monitoring and half-time Early Assistance.

OPI REPORT

Special Education

Steve York said that as part of our MBI process, the “My Voice” survey will continue to be provided to the state. Last year over 30,000 sixth through twelfth graders were surveyed.

Career and Tech Ed-MCIS

The OPI and OCHE are working together in developing the pathways program in Montana. The goal is to make the transition from high school to post-secondary training or career to be as seamless as possible.

The Adult Basic Education is using the HiSET test to show high school equivalency. It replaced the GED.

House Bill 86 that was passed in the last legislative session increases state funding for Career and Technical Education.

Health Enhancement

The OPI is working across divisions to apply for three grants that deal with mental health, school climate and school safety.

Legislation will be proposed to increase the percentage of driver license fees that go to our traffic education programs. An increase in state support would benefit all drivers by making the program more affordable to families.

ESEA Title I

Schools are in a holding pattern on the NCLB status because Montana asked for and received permission to go “all in” on the SBAC and not give both the SAC and the old criterion referenced test this spring.

Accreditation and Curriculum

The new accreditation standards require more of schools in the area of licensed staff evaluation. A team was created by the standards to develop model evaluation systems for teachers, principals, superintendents, etc.

Indian Education

Mandy Broaddus, the Indian Education Division Administrator, testified on Native American educational issues to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

Curriculum and Instruction

The process of building capacity in our educators in employing the Montana Common Core continues.

Superintendent Juneau will hold a Graduation Matters Summit in June at the MBI Summer Institute.

Thursday Joint Meeting—Discussion

Dick Trerise asked the Panel members how they felt about the Joint Meeting. It was noted that it was an intense day. It was felt that the group mix was extraordinary. Others liked the table talks and another said the best part was the networking.

Meeting—July 10-11, 2014

The July 10-11, 2014, meeting will include election of officers for the 2014-2015 Panel. A Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary will be elected.

Suggested Agenda Items

Legislative Items

CSCT

Higher Education—Review Consortium

Adjourn

Dave Marsolf moved to adjourn the meeting, Barbara Varnum seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at noon.